

Sam Cooper adopts slogan "We Treat You Right" with purchase of the Elba Dairy Queen

by Linda Hodge, Staff Writer

The Dairy Queen has been a part of the City of Elba for many years, and the business recently experienced a change when a new owner took over at the helm.

For as long as many can remember, Harry Jacobs of Elba has been the lead man at Elba's Dairy Queen, but Jacobs decided he was ready to give it up towards the end of 1999. And, that's when Sam Cooper's involvement with the business began.

"My brother-in-law owns one (Dairy Queen) in Andalusia and Harry gave him a call to see if he was interested in buying it," Cooper said. "On Christmas Day, my brother-in-law mentioned it to me and I started checking into it."

Cooper officially took over as owner of Elba's Dairy Queen on Feb. 7, 2000.

Cooper was born in Enterprise and raised in the Ino Community. He finished high school in Kinston and has lived in the Basin Community with his family since around

the mid-80s. He and his wife, Betty, have two sons, Jody, 24, and Greg, 22.

"We've had a very good reception and a lot of positive comments from the people of Elba," Cooper said. "I know there is a lot of turnover in this business, but I think we've done real good so far."

Cooper said there are several little things he wants to work on with the business such as upgrading the facility and equipment as he can, training the employees and getting uniforms for the employees, but the most important task is to work on the quality.

"The most important thing for us to do is offer quality service and good food," Cooper said. "That's really important to work on daily."

He added that the restaurant has always had a good reputation for the chicken and cole slaw, and he wants to keep that reputation.

"There have been some people who have asked me to be sure not to change those two things," Cooper

said.

At this point, the only major change he said he is looking at making is an extension to the hours. He said in the near future, he is looking to extend the hours on Sunday through Thursday from 9 a.m. until 9:30 p.m. On Friday and Saturday nights, he said the dining room will be open from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. and only the drive-thru will be open from 9 p.m. until 10 p.m.

Currently, the restaurant closes at 9 p.m. each night.

"We appreciate the business each and every customer has given us," said Cooper. "And, especially during daylight savings time, I think the extended hours will be beneficial to the customers which is why I am looking at staying open later each night."

Cooper said he has really enjoyed his time as owner of Elba's Dairy Queen thus far, and he plans on staying at the helm for several years to come.



UNDER NEW LEADERSHIP...The Elba Chamber of Commerce recently welcomed the new owners of the Elba Dairy Queen into the business industry with an official ribbon cutting ceremony. Several local officials and individuals were on hand for the ribbon cutting to show their support for Elba's newest business owners. Those present were (from left to right): Jimmy Harrison, Kaye Whitworth, executive director of the Elba Chamber of Commerce, Doris Matthews, Dawn Austin, Rev. W.L. Peterson, Elba Mayor James Grimes, Sam Cooper, owner, Molly McGuire, Little Miss Elba, Timothy Williams, Betty Cooper, owner, Valerie Moore, Miss Elba, Winzell Gray, Elba city councilman, Tonya Jones and Herby McCall.

Ann Linton recently appointed as new Elba Postmaster

Ann Linton was recently appointed

as the Elba Postmaster. She has been with the Postal Service for 23 years and has worked in Samson, Daleville, Ozark, New Brooklyn, Kinston, Geneva, Brewton, Opp and Coffee Springs. Linton has experience as a city carrier, rural carrier, clerk, supervisor and postmaster.

She is the daughter of Erna Jean Cooper and the late Orville Cooper of Samson and resides in Samson

with her husband, Billy Linton, who is the unit administrator for the Alabama National Guard. Their children are Lori and Hank Gilmore of Samson, Chris and Carl Linton of Samson and Jody Linton of Dothan. The Lintons also have three grandchildren, Chase and Lorin Gilmore and Connor Linton. "My door is always open to the people of Elba and I look forward to serving as your Postmaster," said Linton.

Elba COC plans 2nd Annual Sausage Festival for May 13

The Elba Chamber of Commerce will sponsor the 2nd Annual Old Time County Fair and Sausage Festival on May 13 at Tiger Stadium on the campus of the Elba School System. The day's activities will begin around 10 a.m. and continue throughout the afternoon. There

will be plenty of fun and games for the whole family, children's activities, children's competitions, live entertainment, arts and crafts, concessions and lots more. Tickets will be sold at the gate only. Everyone is invited to join the fun.

Wiregrass United Way announces availability of 2000 Venture Grants

The Wiregrass United Way has announced the availability of year 2000 Venture Grants for organizations and agencies serving residents in Coffee, Dale, Geneva and Henry counties.

Wiregrass United Way venture grants are one-time grants for special expenditures not included in the regular budget. Equipment and program supplies are examples of such expenditures. Any not-for-profit agency or organization, or government entity with Coffee, Dale, Geneva or Henry County citizen's participation may be eligible to apply.

The Volunteer Allocations Committee for Coffee, Dale, Geneva and Henry counties will award venture grants. Applications will be received and considered in May with decisions to be made in May. Award decisions will be announced in June. Actual distribution of venture grants will not begin until July.

Agencies and organizations interested in applying may obtain the application packet by contacting Connie Pate, area manager for Coffee and Geneva counties, at the Wiregrass United Way office in Enterprise at 393-1072; Danny Tarter, area manager for Dale County, at the Wiregrass United Way office in Ozark at 774-3319; or Sam Jones, allocations committee chair for Henry County, at the Wiregrass United Way office in Dothan at 792-9661. Applications will be accepted through Friday, April 28.

Legislative Breakfast to be held at Elba First Baptist Church on Friday

The Elba Chamber of Commerce will host a Legislative Breakfast on Friday (TOMORROW), April 14, at 7 a.m. at Elba First Baptist Church. State Representative Terry Spicer will be the speaker. For more information, call the chamber office at 897-3125.

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The Elba Clipper

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50 Cents

Elba, Alabama Thursday, April 20, 2000

1 Section, 12 Pages Plus 1 Adv. Insert

JUDGE RULES FORMER JPO IS COUNTY EMPLOYEE

\$1.5 million lawsuit against county pending

by Marvin McLwain, Editor

The way has been cleared for a \$1.5 million lawsuit against the Coffee County Commission to proceed.

The lawsuit was filed early in 1999 by former juvenile probation officer (JPO) Eva McGrath-Love. She was fired from her job as a JPO in November of 1998 by District Judge Steven Blair who presides over both the district court and juvenile court.

It is the contention of the lawsuit that McGrath-Love was not given a grievance hearing before the county commission following her dismissal by Judge Blair.

Judge Blair had fired McGrath-Love shortly after a state audit revealed a shortage in office funds totaling approximately \$1,500. At

first, she was relieved of her duties as chief juvenile probation officer and later terminated.

No criminal charges were ever filed against McGrath-Love or any other employee of the juvenile probation office in the matter; however, all the funds were recovered or accounted for.

According to Coffee County Commission Chairman Kayo Lewis, McGrath-Love was not granted a hearing before the county personnel board because she was thought to be an employee of the state instead of the county.

McGrath-Love's attorney, Paul Young, contends that she is a county employee and is entitled to due process.

The matter was placed in the courts for a ruling as to whether or not McGrath-Love was an employee

of the state or the county. After all local judges recused themselves from hearing the matter, it was assigned to retired Circuit Judge William R. Gordon, of Montgomery County. Last week he made his ruling in the case.

Judge Gordon ruled that McGrath-Love was in fact an employee of the county because she was employed by the juvenile court and not the district court. He noted that the payroll for the juvenile probation office is handled by the county commission.

In his ruling, the judge further acknowledged the fact that McGrath-Love had been required to sign an acknowledgment of the county's drug-free policy and to consent to further stipulations set forth in the policy. She was also provided a county employee handbook and allowed to participate in the county's group health insurance plan.

Since the judge's ruling, the county commission has instructed its attorney to contact McGrath-Love's attorney and set up a time for a grievance hearing. This comes almost 1-1/2 years after Mrs. McGrath-Love was terminated.

The initial \$1.5 million claim against the county asks that in addition to the money, McGrath-Love be reinstated to her job or given a job with the county with similar pay and benefits.

Linda Westbrook seeking re-election to District 1 seat on Commission

Linda Westbrook formally announces her candidacy for re-election for the District One Seat on the Coffee County Commission.

Westbrook, a life long resident of Coffee County, is a 1963 graduate of Opp High School, attended the University of Montevallo, majoring in education and Troy State University. Her education includes a BS degree and graduate work in accounting and business administration from Troy State University.

She has completed the 50 hour requirement (by law) of newly elected commissioners and will receive certification for completing the 120 hour program with Alabama Local Government Training Institute through Auburn University in June. "I wanted a clear understanding of my position as commissioner ethically and responsibly," Westbrook said. "The courses have been very informative. Road building, Ethics, Economic Development and County Administration & Budgeting are a few of the subjects taught. It took time, but I feel the increased knowledge has enabled me to better serve District One in Coffee County government."

When asked what has been her major contribution the last three and a half years, Westbrook stated, "I believe the formation of the Coffee County Water Authority has



The youngsters at The Young World of Learning Kindergarten & Day Care are all excited about the coming weekend and the prospect of finding that "Golden Egg"

Although hiding and hunting eggs is a common symbol of Easter, there are several early morning Sunrise Services planned by local churches which will offer the people of the area an opportunity to celebrate the most common Christian belief together.

Services are being planned for Sunday, April 23, at the following churches:

6:15 a.m. - A Community-wide Easter Sunrise Service at Westside Baptist Church in Elba;

6:00 a.m. - Bluff Springs Baptist Church in the Bluff Springs Community;

6:00 a.m. - Newbia Baptist Church in the Newbia Community;

6:00 a.m. Mt. Olive Baptist

church in the Pine Level Community.

Good Friday Services will be held at the New Brockton United Methodist Church on Friday, April 21, beginning at 6:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

Several events are being planned for April 20 thru April 23 in observance of Holy Week at the Elba United Methodist Church.

Have a safe and happy Easter Celebration!

Disappearance of local teenagers results in the arrest of an Opp man

by Marvin McLwain, Editor

The joint investigation between the Coffee County Sheriff's Department and the 12th Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office has revealed the case of the missing Lamb teenagers was fabricated, and all the details of the event were completely unfounded.

An Opp man, Kenny Lee Bales, 44, of 2563 Hudson Road, has been arrested and charged with two counts of interference with custody.

He was arrested in connection with the disappearance of Ashley Tanay Lamb, 15, and David Adam Lamb, 14, of the Basin Community, parents south of Elba. The two teenagers were reported missing by their parents on March 30 initiating an extensive search of the immediate area by local authorities. The search eventually spread into neighboring counties and into the State of Florida.

The young boy returned home safely on his own on April 6. His sister was located by authorities and returned to her parents on April 8.

David initially told authorities that he believed his sister was in the

Panama City area possibly in the company of a man driving a blue Ford Mustang convertible. Investigators believe the two youngsters were never any further from their home than the neighboring county (Covington).

It is believed that Mr. Bales was instrumental in helping the two youths make up the stories concerning their disappearance. Allegedly, Bales also traveled to Florida and mailed two letters - one from each of the teenagers - to help substantiate their stories.

The investigation revealed that Bales is an acquaintance of the two children's parents; however, the parents had no involvement in the hoax.

Title 13A-6-45 Code of Alabama's definition of Interference of Custody is as follows: "A person commits the crime of interference with custody if he (or she) knowingly takes or entices (1) Any child under the age of 18 from the lawful custody of its parent, guardian or other lawful custodian."

Bales has been released on two (2) \$20,000 bonds following a hearing before District Judge Steven Blair last Thursday.

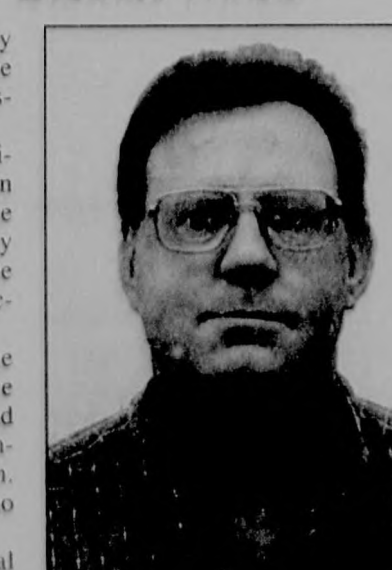
Kenneth Carnley announces candidacy for Commissioner District Three

Kenneth Carnley officially announced his candidacy for the office of Coffee County Commissioner District Three.

Carnley has been a life long resident of Coffee County being born and raised in the District Three area. He is employed by Carnley Farms and serves on the Coffee County Cattlemen Board of Directors.

Kenneth is married to Dianne Rhodes Carnley, and they have three children, Adrian, Jeremy and Andrea. They also have one daughter-in-law and two grandchildren. The Carnleys are members of Ino Baptist Church.

"I am not running for political status but to serve and represent my neighbors in District Three, as well as, all of Coffee County," said



Carnley. "I believe I can make a difference."

Area Happenings

COUNTY BOE MEETING. The Coffee County Board of Education will hold its monthly meeting, Thursday (TONIGHT), April 20, 2000, at 6:30 p.m. in the board room of the Central Office located in Elba.

COMMISSION MEETING. The Coffee County Commission will hold its bi-monthly meeting Monday, April 24, 2000, at 9 a.m. in the Community Room located in the County Complex in New Brockton, Ala.

D.A.R.E. GRADUATION. The Elba Elementary School's D.A.R.E. program will hold its graduation exercises on Friday, April 28, at 9:00 a.m. in the school's cafeteria. All parents of the graduating D.A.R.E. students are invited to attend the ceremony.

SAUSAGE FESTIVAL. The Elba Chamber of Commerce invites one and all to join the crowd and the fun at Tiger Stadium in Elba on Saturday, May 13, from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. for the Second Annual Old Time County Fair and Sausage Festival. There will be plenty of games & activities for the young and the old to include: a tug-of-war contest, a sack race, children's competitions, children's activities, arts and crafts, recipe contests, a car show, etc. A gospel singing will follow the festival beginning at 5 p.m. For more information, contact Kaye Whitworth at the Elba Chamber of Commerce at (334) 897-3125.



Stanley Walker officially enters race for office of circuit clerk

Stanley H. Walker, former principal of New Brockton High School, has officially announced his candidacy for the Office of Circuit Clerk of Coffee County. Walker is seeking the nomination of the Democratic Party in the June 6 primary.

Walker has been a resident of Coffee County since 1975. After spending several years in the field of education in Georgia and Pike County, he came to the Coffee County School System where he spent 23 years as New Brockton before retiring. He and his wife, Sharon, have two children, Sandra, who is the Director of Community Relations for the Winette County Chamber of Commerce in Georgia, and Stan, who practices law in Enterprise. The Walkers attend First Baptist Church of New Brockton where they both teach Sunday School.

"The office of Circuit Clerk touches the life of virtually every citizen of Coffee County," said Walker. "It must provide efficient, courteous and dependable service to the people and organizations it serves. I feel that I am both capable and qualified to fill the position of Circuit Clerk, and I am eager to begin working for the citizens of Coffee County."



Walker said he has always had an interest in community affairs and feels that he can make a contribution to the people of Coffee County by serving as Circuit Clerk. He said that his extensive administrative training and experience would be an asset to this office and ultimately to the people of Coffee County.

Walker pledges that if elected, "He will serve with integrity, fairness and dedication."

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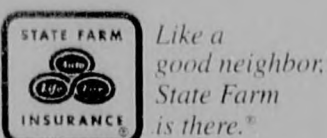
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Easter Greetings

4-H Public Speaking Activity winners announced

Public speaking is something that most people don't really enjoy but many find themselves in a "have to" situation at times. The earlier children are encouraged to speak before a group, the less likely they will let fear take over.

Four-H offers many opportunities for youth. One happens to be public speaking. From the thirty-seven 4-H clubs in Coffee County there were over 250 students who gave a speech for the public speaking activity. The students selected their own topics. Some of the topics were on sports, crime, actual hours in school, pets, seatbelts, angels, and health issues.

The first place winners from each club were invited to the County Contest. Every speech had to be either an informative (facts)

speech or an oratorical (opinion) speech.

The winners of the informative speeches were: Haley Wambles, Zion Chapel, 1st; Elena McCormick, Elba and Andrea Profit, New Brockton tied for 2nd; Lindsay Leverett, Zion Chapel and Daniel Kelley, New Brockton tied for 3rd.

The winners of the oratorical speeches were: Ashley Waddell, Elba, 1st; John Sawyer, New Brockton, 2nd; Brittany Thompson, Zion Chapel 3rd.

Joel Pindleton, home school and Leslie Allison, Enterprise, both won 1st in the senior age division.

Ashley, Haley, Joel and Leslie will represent Coffee County at District competition in Troy in June.



Covington Electric Cooperative recently sponsored 12 students from local schools to participate in the Alabama Rural Electric Association Youth Tour in Montgomery, Ala. Participants are shown above in front of the Alabama State House where they watched their local legislators in action. Pictured from left, front row: Hollis Odom, Kinston; Maryanne Taylor, Red Level; Kristi Simmons, Samson; Jessica Smith, Brantley; and Dawn Parkinson, Straugh. From left, back row: Greg Foreman, Samson; Brooke Kelley, Pleasant Home; Wade Ward, Kinston; John Barry Roberts, Brantley; Troy Wiggins, Pleasant Home; and Scott Smith, Red Level. Ray Bozeman of Straugh was selected to participate, but was unable to attend.

Covington Electric sponsors students for Youth Tour in Montgomery

Twelve students from the six schools in Covington Electric Cooperative's (CEC) service area recently participated in the Alabama Rural Electric Association (AREA) Youth Tour in Montgomery, Ala.

Youth Tour participants enjoyed a three-day trip that included tours of the Alabama State Capitol, Alabama State House, Old Alabama Town and the Alabama Shakespeare Festival. Participants also attended the AREA Annual Meeting Banquet held in the Montgomery Civic Center.

Each year, schools in CEC's service area select one boy and one girl from the junior class to attend the AREA Youth Tour and to compete for a trip to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

Area students on Dean's List at Auburn

Auburn University recently released the names of students who were placed on the Dean's List for Fall Quarter 1999 based on specific scholastic requirements. Local students being named to this list were: Melissa Benbow and Anna R. Harding of Jack.

Don't Forget the Blood Drive April 24th

Elba High School and the American Red Cross will hold a Blood Drive on Monday, April 24, from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. in the school's mini gym. Donors are asked to please bring their blood donor card or any document with date of birth or Social Security number. All donations will be greatly appreciated.

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* Dinners come with cole slaw, french fries, hushpuppies and 2 pieces of fish.
* Platter comes with 2 pieces of whole fish, 2 stuffed crabs, 8 oz. cup of popcorn shrimp, cole slaw, french fries and hushpuppies.

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SCHOOLS

Meet Our Faculty

The EHS Journalism Staff spotlight Mrs. Kathy Griggs as the "Meet Our Faculty" winner.

Mrs. Griggs graduated from Elba High School. She attended Huntington College and later attended Auburn University at Montgomery graduate school. She received her B.A. in Language arts (7-12), a Master's in English and a degree as an Education Specialist.

She now teaches 7th and 9th grade English, and 7th grade Enrichment.

Her hobbies include reading, playing the piano, fishing, baking, hand sewing, playing cards and being with her friends.

When asked what she likes best about Elba, Mrs. Griggs replied, "It's a very close knit community when people help each other out a



lot. People are definitely more friendly here than in most big towns."

Student Spotlight

by Monique Ordon

This week's Student Spotlight is 7th grader Allison Smith. She is the 13-year-old daughter of Dennis and Jan Smith. She has one 14-year-old sister, DeAnn Smith.

Allison was born in Enterprise, Alabama and has been raised in Elba all her life.

When she graduates from high school, she hopes to attend Troy State University and major in radiology.

In her spare time, she enjoys playing softball, basketball, and riding horses.

When asked what she enjoys most about Elba High School, she said the students and teachers.

One thing that makes her different from everyone else her age is her personality.



Allison Smith

MacArthur Summer Registration Schedule

MacArthur State Technical College announces the registration schedule for Summer Term. Applicants who register according to the following schedule will have time to take placement tests as well as complete financial aid applications which must be approved by the Financial Aid Office by May 9, the first day of classes.

Registration for diploma programs will be held April 7 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. These programs include Auto Body, Auto Mechanics, Barbering, Carpentry and Cabinetry, Cosmetology, Diesel Mechanics, Nursing, Nursing Assistant, Upholstery and Welding.

April 21 is the registration day for degree programs. Students may register from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and the course will begin May 9 and end June 22. Exploring the Internet begins June 27 and ends August 15. Meeting hours are Tuesday nights from 5 until 7:40 p.m.

PC Applications is a beginner course introducing users to computer applications in a business-oriented environment. The class begins May 15 and ends August 14. Meeting hours are on Monday nights from 5 until 7:40 p.m.

Applicants who cannot register according to this schedule may visit the Registrar's Office at 1708 North Main Street, Opp, Ala., in order to schedule an alternate time or may request information by calling 493-3573, ext. 233 or 260.

New students must take the COMPASS placement test prior to registration. The test will be administered at 8 a.m. each Friday through May 5. There is no fee for the test. All new students are also required to attend Orientation on May 8 in the Student Center from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

MacArthur State Technical College offers continuing education evening courses. These non-credit courses are designed especially for professional development. Individuals may register for these courses between April 7 and the first class meeting. Microsoft Excel will meet on Tuesday and Thursday nights from 5 until 7:40 p.m.

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Tiger Tales Editorial

by Kimberly Ward

While looking at an inspirational guidebook for life, I found the most amazing quote that inspired me to write this article.

"Triumph is just 'umph' added to try." Many people expect to get something for nothing these days and end up getting disappointed.

The way that I see it is that you must work for something before you can accomplish anything. You must put a little effort in whatever you may undertake in life. You must TRY and put the best foot for-

ward to begin a step towards the right direction. If you TRY your best and fail, just keep pushing forward. All that anyone can do is their best.

So, I encourage every one of you to TRY your hardest in all that you do in life. In your school, in your community, and in your life, just TRY to do your best. Once you have mastered this, any goal in life can be achieved.

Please take this challenge and your life will better by 100%. Put a little "umph" in your try.

Few And Far Between



by Cammie Kelley

Miss Spring Break was held on March 24, 2000. Miss Spring Break is a womanless beauty pageant held every year at Spring Break. The Journalism Staff sponsored the event. Thirteen guys participated in the pageant. All participants certainly looked like females. The contestants were: Brandy Bowers, Tory Vignola, CaChe' Wilson, Jefferina DuBose, Smurfette Genie Baby Coleman, Athena Young, Brittney Grimes, Joli Lawford, Nicole Brunson, Kesley Kelley, Keldacia Burks, Destiny Stinson and Brooke Creel. They were all great, but only three finalists - pictured above - were chosen. Second runner up was Kesley Kelle (left), first runner up was Athena Young (right) and the winner was Joli Lawford (center). They were certainly some wonderful women.

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SPORTS

Views from....

THE PRESSBOX

By Ricky Mularz, Sports Editor

Have you ever felt like you were washing someone else's clothes? We seem to wash at least two or three loads of clothes every night at the Mularz house, and one night last week, I caught a pair of Tim's underwear that had seen come through the wash three nights in a row. Neither of my girls would dare wear the same pants twice in one week, much less three straight days. So, either I washed someone else's pants that matched one of the girls, or we have some pants that can't seem to find a hanger. I hate washing clothes. I get I guess it does beat sorting socks!

LOOKING BACK AT THE WEEK IN SPORTS...

ELBA TIGER BASEBALL...The Elba Tigers won only one of three games last week to watch their record slip to 9-7, and late in the week dropped an area decision to Slocomb, which prevented the Tigers from claiming the out-right area championship and the automatic home field advantage in the playoffs. The Tigers struggled in all three games, but did manage to rally late to get past Highland Home for their only win of the week. The 12-9 loss to Opp was called "ugly" by Tiger coach Wynn Grimes, while the upset loss to Slocomb was simply a road game that got away. The Tigers are assured of a spot in the playoffs, and need to regroup in a hurry and prove that they are indeed a very good baseball team.

ELBA LADY TIGER SOFTBALL...The Elba Lady Tigers can their winning streak to 12 games, last week before being outed in the Sweet Swingers Softball Classic, and closed out last week's action with a 20-6 record. The Lady Tigers swept past Andalusia and Laverne during the week, then pummeled McKenzie and upset 4A power Headland in the tournament, only to lose two straight one-run games and settle for third place. Despite the two one-run losses and the disappointing finish in the tournament, the Lady Tigers are getting better in certain areas every time they take the field, and maybe before long they will put it all together and make a run. Hang in there girls, there is a lot of season left, and plenty of time to work hard and get even better.

YOUTH BASEBALL & SOFTBALL...The Elba Department of Parks and Recreation will have its annual youth baseball and softball leagues in full swing, and once again it looks like the biggest and busiest season ever for everyone involved. The baseball leagues are for boys ages 4-18, and include Tee Ball, Coach Pitch, Dixie Minor, Dixie Youth, Dixie Boys, Dixie Pre Majors and Dixie Majors, while the leagues for girls also cover players ages 4-18, and include Tee Ball, Coach Pitch, Girls 10 and Under, Girls 12 and Under, Girls 14 and Under, and Girls 18 and Under. Over 700 boys and girls, not to mention over 125 coaches, are involved in the baseball and softball programs this summer, with around 30 games a week being played in Elba, and other games set for Samson, Brantley, New Brockton, Laverne and Highland Home. The size of the Elba leagues has led to games being spread around, and plans are in the works for more fields at both Legion Field and Hawkins Field. All the leagues need help...as soon as possible.

SWEET SWINGERS TOURNEY A SUCCESS...The sixth annual Sweet Swingers High School Softball Classic was hosted last weekend by the Elba Department of Parks and Recreation, and while the Geneva Lady Panthers took home the championship trophy, all the teams involved left winners. McKenzie, in only its second season of softball, lost both of its games, but had perhaps the largest following of any team in the event, while Kinston, an annual participant, won its first games of the season over SA Greenville and SA B.T. Washington. Greenville fought its season-long struggles with a win over McKenzie, and even Brantley, which played 4A Headland and 6A Dothan, gained a measure of confidence as the Lady Bulldogs battled Dothan for seven innings before falling 4-2. All the teams had their moments in the tournament, and that is why the tournament is held...to give high school softball teams a chance to compete and have fun.

IN CLOSING...I talked with Elba's Ronald McKinnon last week on the phone, and he told me that he resigned with the Arizona Cardinals because he was ready to get the free agent negotiations over with and got a deal that he could live with for the next three years. Ronald was not real excited about the direction the Cardinals were to be headed, but added that in three years he will still be only 28 years old, and will have many good years of football left to play. Good luck, Ronald, and always be assured that everyone in Elba supports you!

Tell'em you read it right here in....

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Improve record to 9-6

Tigers gun down Flying Squadron 10-6

The Elba Tigers got back on track and improved their record to 9-6 last Tuesday afternoon by posting a 10-6 win over the Highland Home Flying Squadron, at Tiger Field.

The Tigers got off to a slow start and trailed 3-0 heading into the bottom of the third, but rallied to plate two runs in their half of the inning to pull within 3-2.

Britt Grimes reached on a walk and Josh Lawford reached on an error to open the inning for the Tigers, while both runners came around to score on a double off the bat of Kyle English.

The Flying Squadron extended its lead to 5-2 in the top of the fourth and carried the lead into the bottom of the fifth, when Elba plated a lone run to cut the deficit to 5-3.

The Tiger run came when Jason Curran ripped a one-out double and then raced home on the error of the bat of Kyle English.

Highland Home added a run in the top of the sixth to move on top 6-3. However, the Tigers' bats finally woke up in their half of the sixth, as Elba scored seven runs on six hits to take the lead.

A one-out homer by Bradley Bowers ignited the sixth inning fireworks, while a single by Pete Manning, an error off the bat of Britt Grimes and a two-out single by Jason Curran pulled the Tigers within 6-5. Kyle English singled to load the bases, and the Tigers then took their first lead of the afternoon when Brooks Creel delivered a bases-loaded triple to put Elba on top at 8-6. Dustin Stinson singled in Creel, and Brandon Salter delivered an RBI double to cap off the big seven-run sixth inning that pushed the Tigers ahead to stay at 10-6.

Kyle English, Bradley Bowers, Pete Manning and Jason Curran all got 2 hits to lead the Tigers at the plate, while Brooks Creel had one hit and three RBIs. Marcus Henderson was the starting pitcher for Elba and pitched three innings, allowed four hits and struck-out two batters, while Bradley Bowers got the win in relief as he pitched three innings, allowed three hits and struck-out six.

HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL & BASEBALL SCHEDULES

SOFTBALL

Thursday, April 20
Goshen at Elba (2) 4:00
New Brockton at Laverne (2) 4:00

Monday, April 24
Kinston at New Brockton (2) 4:00

Tuesday, April 25
Elba at New Brockton (2) 4:00
Goshen at Zion Chapel (2) 4:00

Wednesday, April 26
Laverne at Brantley (2) 4:00

BASEBALL

Thursday, April 20
Goshen at Elba (4:00)
Brantley at Highland Home

Monday, April 24
New Brockton at Kinston (4:00)
State Playoffs Begin April 26

BASEBALL

Thursday, April 20
Goshen at Elba (2) 4:00
New Brockton at Laverne (2) 4:00

Monday, April 24
Kinston at New Brockton (2) 4:00

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2000 ELBA HIGH TIGERS

Elba Tigers take a tumble in Opp 12-2

The Elba Tigers saw their brief two-game winning streak come to an end last Monday afternoon when they traveled to Opp and suffered a 12-2 loss to the Opp Bobcats.

The Tigers saw the Bobcats combine four hits with two walks and three stolen bases to jump out to a quick 3-0 first inning lead, but showed signs of life in their half of the second and plated a lone run to cut the deficit to 3-1.

The Elba run came when Bradley Bowers led off with a single, moved to second on a walk to Britt Grimes and then raced home on an

RBI single by Pete Manning. A single by Marcus Henderson loaded the bases with only one out, however, the next two Tiger batters struck out, as the Tigers left the bases loaded.

A two-out, two-run triple upped the Opp lead to 5-1 in the bottom of the second, but Elba again refused to fold, and answered right back with another run in the top of the third to pull within 5-2.

A one-out walk to Dustin Stinson started the third inning rally, while the Tigers' run came after Stinson crossed the plate on an RBI single by Brandon Salter.

Opp added a lone run in the fourth to take a 6-2 advantage, then plated six runs on three hits, three walks and three errors in the fifth to plate six runs and end the game at 12-2.

Bradley Bowers and Marcus Henderson both got 2 hits to lead Elba at the plate, while Dustin Stinson added one hit and stole four bases. Brandon Salter pitched all five innings to take the loss on the mound, as he allowed 12 hits and three walks, and struck out two batters.

Elba answered with three runs in fifth and sixth innings to pull away and post the win. A double by Rachel Bludworth and a triple by Melissa Mularz sparked the fifth inning fireworks, while Katie Vaughan and Melissa Grantham both had key sixth inning hits.

Samantha Williams, Roshanda McKinnon, Rachel Bludworth and Leslie Stinson all got 2 hits for Elba.

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Community News

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***NEW LISTINGS*NEW LISTINGS*NEW LISTINGS**



New Listing • Country Home w/3BR - Central H&C - Pecan Trees - New 10x20 Storage Bldg. 1 AC +/-
\$43,500



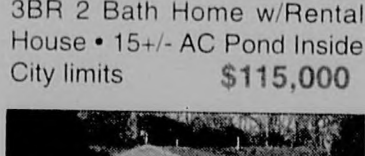
New Listing • Smith Avenue - 3BR 2 Bath Home w/Rental House - 15 +/- AC Pond Inside City limits
\$115,000



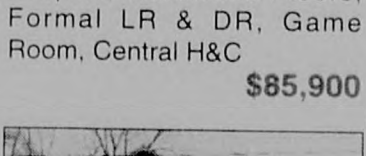
1027 Sunset Blvd. - 2,804 Sq. ft. - 1.1 AC +/- - 3BR - 2 Baths - Brick Home, Deck, Detached Apartment, DBL. Carport, Hardwood Floors, Formal LR & DR, Game Room, Central H&C
\$85,900



976 Sunset Blvd. - 3BR - 2 Bath Brick Home - Storage Bldg. - Quite Neighborhood
\$39,900



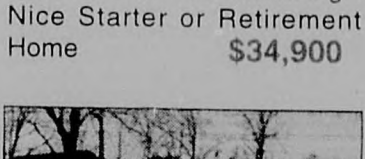
1133 Neil Grantham Dr. - 3BR - 1 Bath - Alum. Siding - Nice Starter or Retirement Home
\$34,900



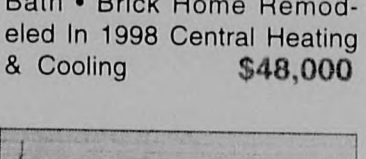
333 Plant Ave. - 3BR - 2 Bath - Brick Home Remodeled In 1998 Central Heating & Cooling
\$48,000



933 Winston St. - 1,904 Sq. Ft. 3BR - 3 Bath - DBL. Car Garage & Deck - 15x30 Storage Bldg.
\$84,900



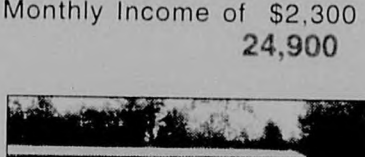
Investment Property - 8 Rental Units With Potential Monthly Income of \$2,300
\$24,900



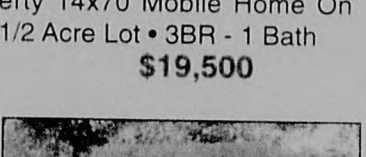
County Road 349 - 1991 Liberty 14x70 Mobile Home On 1/2 Acre Lot - 3BR - 1 Bath
\$19,500



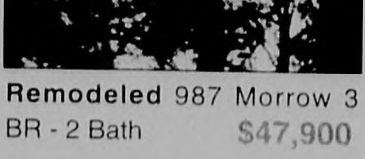
Country Home - 2BR Home on 7.5 Acres - Located on Co. Rd. 239
\$74,900



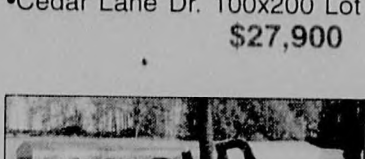
In Town - 1989 3BR - 2 Bath Mobile Home 20x40 Shop - Cedar Lane Dr. 100x200 Lot
\$27,900



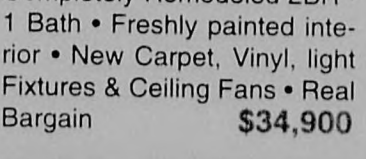
Country Home - 1 AC +/- - Completely Remodeled 2BR - 1 Bath - Freshly painted interior - New Carpet, Vinyl, light fixtures & Ceiling Fans - Real Bargain
\$34,900



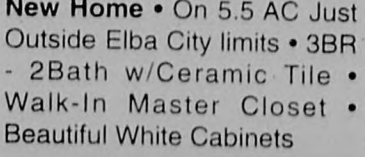
Remodeled 987 Morrow 3 BR - 2 Bath
\$47,900



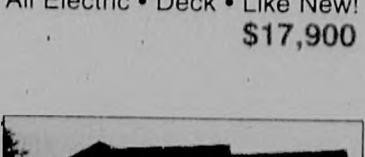
To Be Moved - 1998 Sunshine Mobile Home 16x80 - All Electric - Deck - Like New!
\$17,900



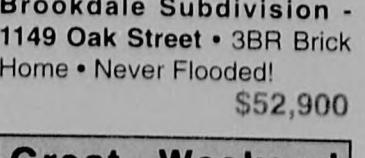
2351 Hickman Ave. - 1470 Sq. ft. Brock home - Nice Storage Bldg. - This Property Is Immaculate!!
\$57,900



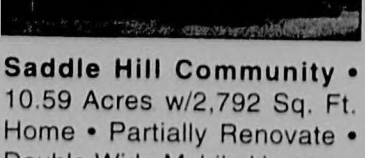
New Home - On 5.5 AC Just Outside Elba City limits - 3BR - 2 Bath w/Ceramic Tile - Walk-In Master Closet - Beautiful White Cabinets
\$52,900



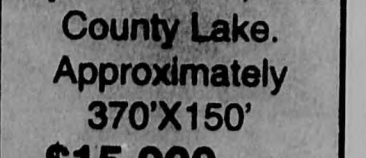
Saddle Hill Community - 10.59 Acres w/2,792 Sq. Ft. Home - Partially Renovate - Double Wide Mobile Home
\$49,900



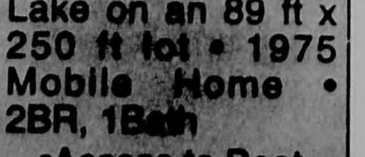
Great Weekend Getaway - Perfect For Fishing & Skiing - Lot & Mobile Home on an 89 ft x 250 ft lot - 1975 Mobile Home - 2BR, 1 Bath
\$22,900



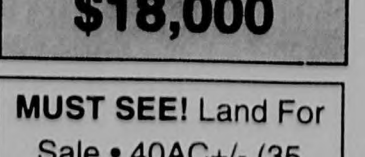
LOT AT GANTT LAKE - \$18,000



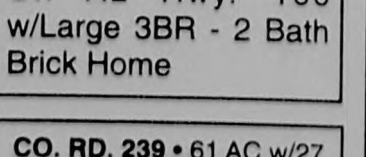
NEW LISTING - 2 Building Lots On Taylor Mill Rd., East County Lake. Approximately 370'x150'
\$15,000 each



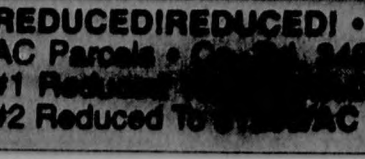
REDUCED! REDUCED! - Two 12-AC Parcels - One 12-AC Parcel #1 Reduced To \$12,900 - #2 Reduced To \$12,900



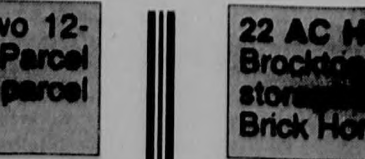
MUST SEE! Land For Sale - 40AC +/- (35 AC Planted In Pines) In Wilkenstown Area



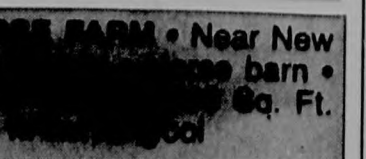
18 AC +/- Commercial Property - Located On AL Hwy. 166 w/Large 3BR - 2 Bath Brick Home



22 AC HOME BARN - Near New Brookwood - 12-AC parcel



22 AC HOME BARN - Near New Brookwood - 12-AC parcel



22 AC HOME BARN - Near New Brookwood - 12-AC parcel

Auburn University awards degrees

Auburn University awarded 1,077 academic degrees at its fall quarter commencement ceremony on Dec. 11 in Beard-Eaves-Memorial Coliseum. Local students receiving their Bachelor's degree were: William B. Grantham and Dusty D. Smith, both of Elba, and Gena A. Edwards of New Brockton.



APPROXIMATELY 90 decennets of James Duncan and Willie Anna Brown Davis gathered in Elba the weekend of April 8 and 9 for a reunion. Pictured above with Lena Fuller, seated, (eldest surviving of nine children) are 20 of the 34 grandchildren.

American Red Cross to hold Safety Class

The American Red Cross announces its Coffee County Safety Class Schedule for April 2000.

On Saturday, April 22, there will be a Community First Aid & Safety Class from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. The price is \$30 which includes the book.

On Monday, April 24, there will be an Adult CPR class from 5:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. On Tuesday, April 25, there will be an Infant & Child CPR class from 5:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m., and on Thursday, April 27, there will be a First Aid class from 5:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. The book for the Community First Aid & Safety class will cost \$15.

All class fees are \$15. Early registration is required. To register please call the Coffee County Chapter office at 347-2461. The Coffee County chapter is located at 711 W. Crawford St., Enterprise, inside the Civic Center.

Probate Judge William O. Gammill was asked by the commissioners to appear before them and give them a brief overview as to what the impact of the bill would be on his office.

"The fees we're talking about are the fees that you would normally find in the probate office in terms of recording, the cost for court operations, individual actions in the court, copies and all the things that we have to charge in the probate office for these particular functions," said Judge Gammill. "The last time these fees were adjusted in any way was about twenty-five years ago."

"In looking at all the fees that were adjusted, these are all fairly reasonable and moderate and even small in some cases," he added.

Judge Gammill estimated, based on given data, that the fee increases would generate between \$42,000 to \$45,000 annually in Coffee County. He added, "I believe the total amount of raises for everybody under the omnibus pay bill was somewhere around \$40,000."

In correcting some of the erroneous information about the bill, Judge Gammill noted that every county in the state is not having to go through this. There are only 8 out of 67 counties in which the commissions have to affirm the pay raise bill before it takes effect.

He added that it is his understanding that it is all or none in

and crafts, recipe contests, a car show, etc. There will also be plenty of entertainment and food, especially that delicious sausage from Kelley Foods of Alabama!

Then, at 5 p.m., find a good seat and sit back and enjoy the sound of good 'ole gospel music as the day closes out with a gospel singing featuring local talent.

So, bring your friends and neighbors and join us at the Second Annual Old Time County Fair and Sausage Festival, May 13, at Elba's Tiger Stadium (located on the Elba City School complex).

For more information, contact Kaye Whitworth at the Elba Chamber of Commerce at (334) 897-3125.

The Elba Chamber of Commerce invites one and all to join the crowd and the fun at Tiger Stadium in Elba on Saturday, May 13, from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. for the Second Annual Old Time County Fair and Sausage Festival. There will be plenty of games & activities for the young and the old to include a tug-of-war contest, a sack race, children's competitions, children's activities, arts

and crafts, recipe contests, a car show, etc. There will also be plenty of entertainment and food, especially that delicious sausage from Kelley Foods of Alabama!

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The students in grades 1-6 at Brantley School have read a total of 19,288 books and accumulated 14,749 points during this school year. The top reader is Courtney Stoops. Mrs. Johnson's third grade class, with 450 points. The students' goal is to have over 20,000

books read by May 5, which is the final day for Accelerated Reader. During the fifth six weeks, the students read 4,590 books and earned 3,317 points. Mrs. Johnson's third grade class placed first with 1084 books and 780.2 points. Ms. Perdue's third grade class placed

second with 679 books and 478.9 points. Mrs. Chandler's second grade class placed third in number of books read with 418 and Mrs. Hall's fifth grade class placed third in number of points with 400.1.

It was further noted in the judge's ruling that she had missed two steps in her petition for a grievance hearing, and it is upon this basis that the county, through its attorney, is asking for that the lawsuit be dismissed.

In regard to the county's other "legal battle," County Attorney Joe Cassidy noted that the county had been served (Monday morning) with a petition for declaratory judgment and a motion for injunctive relief in connection with the recent

Dismissal of the county's Chief Real Property Appraiser, Angela Byrd. It was filed on Friday, April 14, in the Enterprise Division of Coffee County Circuit Court by Revenue Commissioner Ronnie Burns.

It has been Mr. Burns' contention that the commission did not have the right to dismiss Ms. Byrd after a blood test came back positive following her arrest on March 1 for DUI (Driving Under the Influence). He further disagrees that the county has the authority to hire an appraiser to replace Ms. Byrd.

Circuit Judge Gary McAliley ruled that the petition for declaratory judgment will be heard, however, he denied the motion for injunctive relief clearing the way for the commission to hire an appraiser.

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Commissioner Tom Grimley questioned the county administrator concerning a new contract that he had supposedly requested. He asked Commission Chairman Kaye Lewis if this was something that needed to be addressed or acted on.

County Administrator Wilson Mobley told Grimley that he was not asking for a new contract at the present.

When asked by Grimley to explain the document, Mobley responded, "That was some information that the chairman had asked me to gather on what other county administrators were being paid that had the same amount of time of employment as I have. And, it was all due to an offer that was made to me by another county."

He told Grimley that he had to

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INSIDE
Dustin Stinson
Swings A Big
Bat For The
Elba Tigers



The Elba Clipper

Volume 103, Number 46

50 Cents

Elba, Alabama

Thursday, April 27, 2000

1 Section, 14 Pages Plus 1 Adv. Insert

County Commissioners discuss pay raises & pending court cases

By Marvin McLwain, Editor

The Coffee County Commission, in its regular bi-monthly meeting, dealt with several pressing issues facing the commission at the present time - one being the omnibus pay bill passed by the state legislature this year.

The bill purports a pay increase for the county commissioners, sheriff, probate judge, revenue commissioner, tax assessor, tax collector, license commissioner, and elected assistant tax assessor or collector. Funds for the pay raises are to be generated by increases in probate fees.

Probate Judge William O. Gammill was asked by the commissioners to appear before them and give them a brief overview as to what the impact of the bill would be on his office.

"The fees we're talking about are the fees that you would normally find in the probate office in terms of recording, the cost for court operations, individual actions in the court, copies and all the things that we have to charge in the probate office for these particular functions," said Judge Gammill. "The last time these fees were adjusted in any way was about twenty-five years ago."

"In looking at all the fees that were adjusted, these are all fairly reasonable and moderate and even small in some cases," he added.

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In correcting some of the erroneous information about the bill, Judge Gammill noted that every county in the state is not having to go through this. There are only 8 out of 67 counties in which the commissions have to affirm the pay raise bill before it takes effect.

He added that it is his understanding that it is all or none in

connection to the bill. "You have to accept the whole bill or none of the bill. You can't accept the fees and not have the pay raise, nor can you accept the pay raises and decline fees - I think it's all one bill. It has already been passed, it's already law, ya'll just have to ratify it."

When asked by Commissioner Doug Dalrymple which fees took the biggest hike, Judge Gammill responded that the ones that stood out in his mind was conservatorships and guardianships which increased by \$22 per action, and adoptions, which require a lot of time and work, increased from \$20 to \$75.

In summation, "I see nothing unreasonable in the fee increases," Judge Gammill said.

There is no deadline for the commission to ratify or reject the bill; however, if ratified, it takes effect at the beginning of the fiscal year following ratification. No action was taken by the commission in Monday's meeting.

Turning to other "court" related matters, the commission took action concerning the \$1.5 million lawsuit filed against the county by Eva McGrath-Love. The county's attorney was instructed to file for a summary judgment and this is to be done within the week.

A recent ruling in the case was handed down by Circuit Judge William R. Gordon, of Montgomery County, stating that McGrath-Love was an employee of the county at the time she was dismissed from her position as a juvenile officer by District Judge Steven Blair.

It was further noted in the judge's ruling that she had missed two steps in her petition for a grievance hearing, and it is upon this basis that the county, through its attorney, is asking for that the lawsuit be dismissed.

In regard to the county's other "legal battle," County Attorney Joe Cassidy noted that the county had been served (Monday morning) with a petition for declaratory judgment and a motion for injunctive relief in connection with the recent

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MORE BALLPARK FUNDS... State Senator Jimmy Holley and State Representative Terry Spicer recently presented a check for \$10,000 to the Coffee County Board of Education to be used in the construction of a baseball field at Zion Chapel High School. Several months ago, a check for \$25,000 was also presented to the Board for this purpose. As recently as last Monday, April 24, plans are being looked at to review the proposed site of the field by the school but will also be made available to the community. Pictured above are (l-r): front row Rep. Spicer, Terry Grant (ZC student), Marcus Taylor (ZC student), and Coffee County Commissioner Linda Westbrook; back row - Senator Holley, Zion Chapel Principal Richard Littleton, and Supt. Rodger Bowden.

County BOE members stand firm on present non-curriculum club policy

By Marvin McLwain, Editor

Last Thursday's monthly meeting of the Coffee County Board of Education (BOE) centered around a discussion concerning another request by the Believers In Christ, an non-curriculum prayer club at Zion Chapel High School, that they be allowed to meet during instructional time.

Addressing the board as a friend and supporter of the Believers In Christ was Larry Dickey. He asked that the board grant the club time during school hours (instructional time) due to the fact that several students had expressed